

ABSTRACT**A SYSTEM**

5 A processor-controlled machine (3a) is coupled via
a control apparatus (34) to speech processing apparatus
(2) for enabling a user to control at least one function
of the machine by spoken commands. The speech processing
apparatus (2) has a speech recognition engine (201)
10 associated with a grammar module (202) for providing the
speech recognition grammar or grammars required by the
engine (201). The control apparatus (34) provides the
speech processing apparatus (2) with instructions
regarding the speech recognition grammars to be used for
recognising speech data. The grammar store stores at
15 least first and second grammars having grammar rules and
at least one interface grammar defining grammar rules
with the first grammar being arranged to use grammar
rules defined by the interface grammar, and the second,
being arranged to implement rules defined by the
20 interface grammar so as to enable an extended grammar to
be formed when the control apparatus provides
instructions for causing the second grammar to be linked
to the first grammar using the interface grammar.

25 (FIGS. 1 and 8)